

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CITY OF BRECKSVILLE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION

HELD: November 15, 2022

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Virtual Meeting Notice

For the safety of our staff and residents, to listen to the live stream of the meeting please go to: <https://www.facebook.com/233577357056186/live/> or the City's website: www.brecksville.oh.us. Questions and comments may be e-mailed to ttabor@brecksville.oh.us or by phone to (440) 526-2609 and will be forwarded to the appropriate personnel for a response.

Call to Order

7:59 PM

Roll Call

Ganim, Kingston Koepke, Redinger, Savage, Stucky.

Also Present: Mayor Hruby, Law Director Matty, Econ. Development Director Bartkiewicz, Police Chief Korinek, Fire Chief Zamiska, Purchasing Director Riser, Service Director Weidig, Engineer Wise, Building Commissioner Packard, Clerk Tabor, IT Specialist P. Packard and approximately 20 guests.

Public Hearing

1. The City of Brecksville is eligible to apply for up to \$50,000 in 2023 Community Development Supplemental Grant (CDSG) funding administered by Cuyahoga County through the Department of Development. Funds can be used to a variety of community improvement projects. A public meeting will be held in person in City Council Chambers at City Hall, 9069 Brecksville Road, on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 7:40 PM. The public is encouraged to attend to voice their opinions on local community development needs, or to submit opinions and comments in writing to City Hall. For additional information, please contact Monica Bartkiewicz at 440-526-2603 or mbartkiewicz@brecksville.oh.us. Any person who wishes to attend the meeting and requires special accommodations, please notify the City Clerk's Office at least 3 days prior to the meeting at 440-526-2609.

Planning and Economic Development Director Bartkiewicz said this public hearing is being held to provide information on the 2023 Community Development Supplemental Grant offered through Cuyahoga County. The \$50,000.00 grant award can be used for a variety of improvements that will improve upon the health, safety and welfare of communities. Director Bartkiewicz said she has seen a wide variety of projects and is recommending the audible pedestrian signals at select intersections in the downtown area. This project will address concerns as they relate to public safety and services for vulnerable populations and individuals with disabilities and would also address economic development and community development as it relates to increasing access to and patronage at businesses in the downtown district. Director Bartkiewicz asked that anyone wishing to speak state your name for the record and also everyone in attendance sign the attendance sheet at the Council Chamber entrance.

Kurt Jacobson, Mr. Jacobson said he is here with a group of residents representing the "Pickle ball Community" in Brecksville. The grant recognizes health as a possible use for grant funding and pickle ball is a good way to exercise. Mr. Jacobson said approximately 20 communities in northeast Ohio have constructed pickle ball courts and Brecksville residents would like courts in the City. The Recreation Director has provided pickle ball courts in the new fieldhouse, 45 players showed up to play during the 2 hour slots on Friday and Saturday. Mr. Jacobson said the group is working with the Recreation Commission to create outdoor fields.

Merri Gunzler, 9494, River Birch Run. Ms. Gunzler asked if the project is already earmarked for audible pedestrian signals. Director Bartkiewicz said it is the desire of the City to proceed with the audible signal project. The grant has specific time requirements, the engineering is already underway for the audible signal project and included in the Capital Budget. Director Bartkiewicz said having projects prepared and "shovel ready" increases the competitiveness of the application for funding. Ms. Gunzler asked if the City received input from residents for this project. Director Bartkiewicz said the City has a resident that has requested this type of accessibility improvement to intersections in the City. Service Director Weidig may have additional information on requests for this type of improvement. Ms. Gunzler asked when information is received from public hearings, what happens with that information or requests from the public. Director Bartkiewicz said as an example, the group here representing pickle ball. If the project is not "shovel ready" for this grant, it may be considered for other funding in the future and discussed among the administration. Minutes from meetings where the proposed project was discussed, you know, in a in a

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public forum at various City Council meetings, this was a priority in respect to the cost of the project and the applicability to the criteria.

Ms. Gunzler read a prepared statement “So, back on February 15th 2022. 80 residents packed the City Council's chambers begging to please consider installing sidewalks on Oakes Road. The city laid the streets and sidewalks, trails, and connectivity plan which did not include Oakes Road. Since that time, our new elementary school was opened which coincidentally is off of Oakes Road. When the new school was being constructed two years ago, two studies were used. One from 2015 and one from 2017. Both studies predicted that student enrollment would decrease. Further, one of the studies predicted that there were only six students who could potentially walk to school. Well, fast to September when school starts and it is quickly identified that both school studies are grossly inaccurate. Not only did student enrollment not decrease, it increased and by 200 students. Further, over 100 students were identified as potential walkers. While these 100 students could walk to school, they have been advised to use the bus because the lack of sidewalks that exist on Oakes Road right now. I bring up this example of the elementary school studies to highlight the importance of getting current and accurate data. of the school studies were dated. A linear foot of sidewalk cost \$39.14. While this grant may not be eligible for the sidewalks, others are. As you probably suggested. Oakes Road connects Brecksville and Broadview Heights. Oakes Road connects to Blossom Hill, the elementary school, Highland Drive, Route twenty-one, Barr Road, and multiple neighborhoods. It is easily a hub. It should be to the city's streets and sidewalks, trails, and connectivity plan and given priority and a future budget. Growth is inevitable, particularly with the development of the VA. With only 44% of the city having sidewalks, connectivity is grossly missing. Although the eighty residents from the February 15th meeting could not be here tonight, we are here in Letter to please ask council to please consider ear marking future grants towards a study for costs and best uses for sidewalks on Oakes Road. Thank you.”

Steve Schadler. Mr. Schadler thanked Council for holding this hearing. Mr. Schadler acknowledged the addition of Director Bartkiewicz to the staff and thanked Council for her appointment. Mr. Schadler said the discussion on pickle ball courts, even though it may not fit this grant opportunity, it is discussed as a future project. Mr. Schadler said these audible intersections, the City may consider additional intersection near Valor Acres.

or the gentlemen that spoke about pickle ball, certainly that's on our radar. Ms. Gunzler certainly, you know, connectivity through mister Kingston's committee is top of mind, as well.

The City continues working on the connectivity and the easement that are prepared for Council's consideration today relate to connectivity.

Mayor Hruby asked Purchasing Director Riser if she knew how many grants were received this year. Purchasing Director Riser said as of two months ago \$1.7 million. Mayor Hruby said when requests are received from the public, the City attempts find funding for those projects.

This request fit in in a variety of ways but most importantly, we're responding to an ADA request. Mayor Hruby said there is a resident who lives in the City that has a vision handicap and walks where he needs to go. The gentleman walks with a cane and crosses at SR 21 and SR 82. He also crosses several other intersections. Mayor Hruby said several times the gentleman has been helped crossing by city workers, gas station employees and others in the community. That is how the City became aware of the need for audible signals.

Mayor Hruby said the City has always been aggressively seeking funding. Purchasing Director Riser, Fire Chief Zamiska, Police Chief Korinek and Service Director Weidig have been successful in obtaining grants.

Mayor Hruby said the Streets and Sidewalks Committee, with Councilmember Kingston have been working on connectivity. The committee has been working on the trail way that connects the parks boulevard with Oakes Road. There is also a multi-modal study that will be done on the south side of the city.

Scott Campbell, 8315 Sunnydale Dr. Mr. Campbell asked if the City would be contacting his group regarding pickle ball court input. Mayor Hruby said the information the City has come from Mr.

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Campbell's group. Mayor Hruby said the group has presented to the Recreation Commission and will probably be discussed by the Recreation Commission in the future. Mr. Termini provided drawings of a (4) court facility and the City is currently looking for a location to create those courts. Mayor Hruby said the group also asked that the tennis courts be used for pickle ball, Mayor Hruby said the administration feels that would cause conflict between the tennis players and pickle ball players.

Mayor Hruby said Rachel Engle is the Recreation Director and AJ Ganim is Council's Representative to the Recreation Commission they will be able to assist you. Recreation Director Engle said she speaks with Mr. Campbell frequently.

No further comments or questions were presented.

Adjournment

8:21 PM

Motion made by Redinger, Seconded by Ganim.

Voting Yea: Ganim, Kingston, Koepke, Redinger, Savage, Stucky

Mayor and Safety Director: Jerry N. Hruby,

City Council Members: Laura C. Redinger, *President*; Dominic Caruso, *Vice President*; AJ Ganim, Daryl Kingston, Ann Koepke, Beth Savage, Brian Stucky.

Clerk: Tammy Tabor